

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A kneading element for a screw extruder for plastics, rubber, and coating applications, the kneading element comprising:
 - a central portion having a substantially circular outer limit and having a shaft receiving bore defined therein; and
 - at least one lobe extending radially from said central portion, said at least one lobe having an outer periphery ridge and first and second lateral sidewalls, wherein one of said lateral sidewalls of said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion;
 - wherein the outer periphery ridge ~~traces an arc concentric with respect to the outer limit of the central portion and is circumferentially~~ defines a surface that is disposed generally equidistant from the outer limit of the central portion and the ridge is shorter in a circumferential direction than the circumferential length of the lobe where the lobe is attached to the central portion.
2. (original) The element of claim 1, wherein the other of said lateral sidewalls on each lobe is convex between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
3. (original) The element of claim 1 wherein the other of said lateral sidewalls on each lobe is concave between said first outer periphery ridge and said central portion.

4. (original) The element of claim 1, wherein said element includes two opposed lobes.
5. (original) The element of claim 1, wherein said element includes three lobes.
6. (original) The element of claim 1 wherein said element is twisted.
7. (original) The element of claim 1, wherein said element has an axial depth greater than the diameter of the shaft receiving bore.
8. (original) The element of claim 7, wherein said element is twisted.
9. (currently amended) A kneading block comprising a plurality of kneading elements for a screw extruder for plastics, rubber, and coating applications, each kneading element contacting at least a portion of at least one adjacent kneading element, and wherein at least one kneading element of said kneading block includes a central portion having a substantially circular outer limit and having a shaft receiving bore defined therein, and at least one lobe extending radially from said central portion, said at least one lobe having an outer periphery ridge and first and second lateral sidewalls, wherein one of said lateral sidewalls of said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion;
wherein the outer periphery ridge ~~traces an arc concentric with respect to the outer limit of the central portion and is circumferentially~~ defines a surface that is disposed generally equidistant from the outer limit of the central portion and the ridge is shorter in a circumferential direction than the circumferential length of the lobe where the lobe is attached to the central portion.

10. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the other of said lateral sidewalls on each lobe is convex between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
11. (previously presented) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the other of said lateral sidewalls on each lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
12. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein at least one kneading element includes two opposed lobes.
13. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein said kneading element includes three lobes.
14. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein at least one kneading element is twisted.
15. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the block includes at least two kneading elements wherein one of the lateral sidewalls on at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
16. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the block comprises N number of kneading elements adjacent to each other, wherein all the elements have at least one lobe having first and second lateral sidewalls and wherein one of the lateral sidewalls on said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
17. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the block comprises N number of kneading elements adjacent to each other, wherein at least the first element of

the block has at least one lobe having first and second lateral sidewalls and wherein one of the lateral sidewalls on said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.

18. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the block comprises N number of kneading elements adjacent to each other, wherein at least the last element of the block has at least one lobe having first and second lateral sidewalls and wherein one of the lateral sidewalls on said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
19. (original) The kneading block of claim 9, wherein the block comprises N number of kneading elements adjacent to each other, wherein at least the first and last elements of the block has at least one lobe having first and second lateral sidewalls and wherein one of the lateral sidewalls on said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion.
20. (previously presented) A kneading block comprising a plurality of kneading elements, wherein at least one kneading element of said kneading block includes a central portion defining a shaft receiving bore and at least one lobe extending radially from said central portion, said at least one lobe having an outer periphery ridge and first and second lateral side walls, wherein one of said lateral side walls of said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion, wherein the block comprises N number of kneading elements adjacent to each other, wherein all the elements have at least one lobe having first and second lateral side walls and wherein one of the lateral sidewalls on said at least one lobe is concave between said outer periphery ridge and said central portion wherein there are at least three kneading elements, and wherein the first and last kneading elements are twisted in a first direction and wherein the other elements are twisted in an opposite direction.

21. (original) The kneading block of claim 16, wherein each element is twisted in the same direction.
22. (cancelled).
23. (cancelled).
24. (cancelled).
25. (cancelled).
26. (cancelled).
27. (cancelled).
28. (currently amended) The element of claim 1, wherein said at least one lobe further includes first and second broad surfaces at the axial ends of the at least one lobe that are perpendicular to the shaft receiving bore and ~~entirely~~ lie in parallel ~~to~~ planes with each other.